

House Resolution 1296

By: Representatives Brooks of the 63rd, Watson of the 91st, Abdul-Salaam of the 74th, Orrock of the 58th, Holmes of the 61st, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Remembering and repudiating the 1906 Atlanta race riot; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, on September 22, 1906, after a summer of inflammatory newspaper headlines
3 and news stories depicting false and exaggerated black-on-white assaults, thousands of white
4 men, including members of the state militia, attacked African Americans in downtown
5 Atlanta; and

6 WHEREAS, the 1906 Atlanta race riot continued for four days, with attacks on African
7 Americans spreading beyond the downtown area and resulting in the massacre of at least 25
8 black men and women, numerous beatings, serious injuries, invasion and vandalizing of
9 homes and businesses of African Americans, and creating widespread fear among the
10 citizens of Atlanta; and

11 WHEREAS, the riot was widely covered in the national and international press; and

12 WHEREAS, the Atlanta race riot left a major, enduring stain on the history of Atlanta and
13 Georgia and on the history of American race relations; and

14 WHEREAS, the violence directly affected such prominent figures as W.E.B. DuBois, Walter
15 White, John Wesley Dobbs, and Margaret Mitchell; and

16 WHEREAS, despite its historical, spiritual, and psychological impact on the people of
17 Atlanta, that dark chapter in Atlanta history has been largely forgotten; and

18 WHEREAS, the centennial of the Atlanta race riot offers an opportunity to reconsider the riot
19 and its significance, and to thus contribute to improved human relations; and

1 WHEREAS, the Coalition to Remember the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot was organized in 2004
2 to create public awareness of the riot and its legacy, to facilitate open and ongoing dialogue
3 among diverse communities, and to inspire positive systemic change in Atlanta's race
4 relations; and

5 WHEREAS, the coalition was convened by the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site
6 and Southern Truth and Reconciliation, Inc.; and

7 WHEREAS, among its activities, the coalition will sponsor a symposium and other
8 commemorative events upon the occasion of the actual centennial of the Atlanta race riot in
9 September of 2006.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
11 the members of this body expresses the deepest sympathies and most solemn regrets to the
12 descendants of the victims of the Atlanta race riot; declares September 22-25, 2006, to be
13 "Days of Remembrance" to memorialize those who died as victims of the Atlanta race riot;
14 repudiates the racist practices and rhetoric which contributed to the Atlanta race riot; and
15 remembers the history of the riot, to ensure that such a tragedy will be neither forgotten nor
16 repeated.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
18 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the public and the press.